

What is Claimed Is:

1. A low energy method of pyrolysis of hydrocarbon material comprising:  
5 providing said hydrocarbon material;  
loading said hydrocarbon material into a reaction chamber;  
adding a catalyst to said reaction chamber, and  
heating said reaction chamber for a sufficient time to provide substantially complete pyrolysis,  
said method occurring while maintaining a vacuum and yielding  
10 reaction products comprising a solid carbonaceous residue, a liquid hydrocarbon product and a combustible gas.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said catalyst is clay.  
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said clay is selected from the group consisting of montmorillonite, bentonite, beidellite and combinations thereof.  
15 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said clay is pillared clay.  
5. The method of Claim 2, wherein said clay is a natural ore.  
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said catalyst is a commercial clay containing product.  
7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said commercial clay product  
20 is selected from the group consisting of cat litter and oil spill absorbent and combinations thereof.  
8. The method of Claim 2, wherein said catalyst is added in an amount of about 0.01 wt.% to 3.0 wt.%, based on the total weight of said hydrocarbon material.  
25 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said heating of said reaction chamber results in a reaction temperature of said hydrocarbon material of between about 150° to 850° F.  
10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said reaction temperature of said hydrocarbon material is maintained at between about 350° to 850°F.

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11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said heating occurs in at least a first, second and third phases and fuel input is adjusted to take advantage of the exothermic nature of the reaction.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein said first, second and third phase occur sequentially over time.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein said first, second and third phase occur sequentially over space, as said hydrocarbon material moves through said reaction chamber.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein said vacuum is maintained at a pressure of between about 2 inches to 16 inches mercury.

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein said vacuum is maintained at pressure of between about 2 inches to 16 inches mercury.

16. A low energy method of pyrolysis of hydrocarbon material comprising:

15 providing said hydrocarbon material;  
loading said hydrocarbon material into a reaction chamber;  
heating said reaction chamber, said heating occurring in at least a first, a second and a third phase; and  
adjusting input of fuel to take advantage of the exothermic nature of  
20 the reaction, said method occurring while maintaining a vacuum and yielding reaction products comprising a carbonaceous solid residue, a liquid hydrocarbon product and a combustible gas.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein said phases occur sequentially over time.

25 18. The method of Claim 16, wherein said phases occur sequentially over space, as said hydrocarbon material moves through said reaction chamber.

19. The method of Claim 16, wherein said vacuum is maintained at a pressure of between about 2 inches to 16 inches mercury.

30 20. The method of Claim 1, wherein said hydrocarbon material is used rubber.

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21. The method of Claim 16, wherein said hydrocarbon material is used rubber.

22. An apparatus for reclamation and recovery of constituents of discarded vehicle tires and other hydrocarbon based materials including organic and  
5 inorganic materials for reuse or environmentally safe disposal, said apparatus comprising:

a feed system for transferring rubber products and a catalyst into an inlet of a reactor;

one or more elongated reactor chambers having activation,  
10 decomposition, and completion zones, wherein said one or more reactor chambers each have a helicoid auger for transferring material from the inlet through said reactor and solid product from said reactor to an outlet;

an inlet and an outlet bin positioned at each end of the reactor  
chambers for input, reaction initiation, product decomposition, reaction completion,  
15 and extraction of the into vapor and solid material; and

a solid material recovery system.

23. An apparatus according to Claim 22, further comprising a vapor recovery system for recovering vapors from a decomposition zone of said one or reactor chambers, wherein said vapor recovery system comprises:

20 a heat exchanger for condensing vapors from said one or more reactor chambers;

a liquid/gas separator for separating liquids condensed in said heat exchanger; and

25 a vacuum pump for removing vapors from the decomposition chamber of said one or more low temperature reactor chambers through said heat exchanger and said liquid/gas separator, while maintaining a vacuum in said one or more low temperature reactor chambers.

24. An apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the feed system is a helicoid auger.

30 25. An apparatus of Claim 22, wherein an outlet conveyor is a helicoid auger.

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26. A process for reclamation and recovery of constituents of discarded vehicle tires and other rubber products cut into pieces for reuse or environmentally safe disposal, comprising:

- transferring tire pieces from a feed supply by a conveyor into a feeder bin; and
- 5 transferring the tire pieces from the feeder bin to the inlet of a low temperature reactor chamber by a helicoid auger.